

1

CLAIMS

2 The invention claimed is:

3 1. A method of providing a credit card driven tuition incentive
4 awards program, comprising the steps of:
5 a) paying out, by a credit card issuer, as per an agreement
6 between the credit card issuer and a program vendor, a
7 percentage of credit card sales at a predetermined
8 period, to the program vendor; and
9 b) placing, by at least one of the credit card issuer and
10 the program vendor, the percentage of credit card sales
11 in insured bank accounts collecting set interest.

12 2. The method as defined in claim 1; further comprising the steps
13 of:
14 c) applying, by a potential credit card holder, for a credit
15 card, to the credit card issuer;
16 d) determining, by the credit card issuer, if the potential
17 credit card holder qualifies for the credit card;
18 e) aborting, if answer to step e) is no; and
19 f) issuing, by the credit card issuer, the credit card, to
20 the potential credit card holder so as to form a credit
21 card holder, if answer to step e), and as a result
22 thereof, the credit card holder automatically is approved
23 for the credit card driven tuition incentive award

1 program, by virtue of affiliation of the credit card
2 driven tuition incentive award program and the credit
3 card issuer with each other.

4 3. The method as defined in claim 2; further comprising the step
5 of:

6 g) paying, by the credit card holder, an annual fee, to at
7 least one of the credit card issuer and the program
8 vendor so as to form an account with a balance so as to
9 form an account balance, if step f) is carried out.

10 4. The method as defined in claim 3; further comprising the steps
11 of:

12 h) charging, by the credit card holder, an amount on the
13 credit card so as to form an amount charged, if step g)
14 is carried out; and

15 i) accumulating, by the at least one of the program vendor
16 and the credit card issuer, a certain percentage of the
17 amount charged on the credit card, by the credit card
18 holder, if step h) is carried out.

19 5. The method as defined in claim 4; further comprising the step
20 of:

21 j) converting, by the at least one of the program vendor and
22 the credit card issuer, the certain percentage to points

so as to form points accumulated, if step i) is carried out.

6. The method as defined in claim 5; further comprising the step of:

k) checking, by the credit card holder, the account balance, by one of telephone and Internet, if step j) is carried out.

7. The method as defined in claim 6; further comprising the steps of:

- 1) determining, by the credit card holder, if the points accumulated are to be redeemed when the points accumulated reach a predetermined amount;

- m) determining if the points accumulated has reached the predetermined amount, if answer to step 1) is yes; and
- n) returning to step h), if answer to step m) is no.

n) returning to step h), if answer to step m) is no.

8. The method as defined in claim 7; further comprising the steps of:

- o) converting, by the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, the points accumulated to dollars so as to form a dollar amount, if answer to step m) is yes; and

p) issuing, by the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, a check in the dollar amount, if step o) is carried out.

9. The method as defined in claim 8; further comprising the steps of:

- q) determining if the credit card holder is not a student who has a name and who attends a school with a tuition, if step p) is carried out;
- r) proceeding to step t), if answer to step q) is no; and
- s) putting, by the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, the name of the student on the check, if answer to step q) is yes.

10. The method as defined in claim 9; further comprising the steps of:

- t) determining if there is a problem getting the check to the school;
- u) sending, by the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, the check directly to the credit card holder, if answer to step t) is yes; and
- v) forwarding, by the credit card holder, the check to the school, if step u) is carried out.

11. The method as defined in claim 10; further comprising the steps of:

- w) sending, by the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, the check directly to the school, if the answer to step t) is no;
- x) confirming, by the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, to the credit card holder, that the check has been sent out so as to form a confirmation, if step w) is carried out; and
- y) crediting, by the school, the check towards the tuition of the student.

12. The method as defined in claim 11; further comprising the steps of:

- z) calling, by the credit card holder, the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer so as to form a call, if answer to step 11) is no; and
- aa) determining if the call is made within a predetermined time, if step z) is carried out.

13. The method as defined in claim 12; further comprising the steps of:

- bb) requesting, by the credit card holder, redemption of the points accumulated, from the at least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, if answer to step aa) is yes; and
- cc) returning to step w), if step bb) is carried out.

1 14. The method as defined in claim 13; further comprising the step
2 of:
3 dd) forfeiting automatically, the points accumulated, to the
4 at least one of the program vendor and the credit card
5 issuer, if answer to step aa) is no.

6 15. The method as defined in claim 1; further comprising the step
7 of keeping, by the at least one of the program vendor and the
8 credit card issuer, the set interest for cost of operations.

9 16. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step of paying
10 out, by a credit card issuer, as per an agreement between the
11 credit card issuer and a program vendor, a percentage of
12 credit card sales at a predetermined period, to the program
13 vendor includes paying out, by a credit card issuer, as per an
14 agreement between the credit card issuer and a program vendor,
15 a percentage of credit card sales at a predetermined period
16 being one of monthly and quarterly, to the program vendor.

17 17. The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said step of
18 checking, by the credit card holder, the account balance
19 includes checking, by the credit card holder, the account
20 balance, by one of telephone and Internet.

21 18. The method as defined in claim 11, wherein said step of
22 sending, by the at least one of the program vendor and the

1 credit card issuer, the check directly to the school includes
2 sending, by the at least one of the program vendor and the
3 credit card issuer, the check directly to the school that
4 receives a distinct code number.

5 19. The method as defined in claim 11, wherein said step of
6 confirming, by the at least one of the program vendor and the
7 credit card issuer, to the credit card holder, that the check
8 has been sent out so as to form a confirmation includes
9 confirming, by the at least one of the program vendor and the
10 credit card issuer, by one of mail, e-mail, and the telephone,
11 to the credit card holder, that the check has been sent out so
12 as to form a confirmation.

13 20. The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said step of
14 calling, by the credit card holder, the at least one of the
15 program vendor and the credit card issuer so as to form a
16 call, includes calling, by the credit card holder, the at
17 least one of the program vendor and the credit card issuer, by
18 one of automated telephone and the Internet so as to form a
19 call.